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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$5,000,000 for the EPB Quantum Network in FY 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Electric Power Board (EPB) Chattanooga, located at 10 West M.L. King Blvd, Chattanooga, TN 37402. The funding would support a quantum network built on EPB's utility-owned, community-wide fiber optic infrastructure, providing real-world access for businesses, universities, and government agencies developing quantum science, secure communications, and commercial applications. This capability is being expanded through the EPB Quantum Center, which adds quantum computing, research collaboration, and workforce development capacity. Currently, no other commercially available quantum networks exist. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the United States still lacks enough broadly accessible quantum environments for students, entrepreneurs, and research scientists to prove productivity, develop applications, accelerate commercialization, attract investment, create jobs, and contribute to national security.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress